ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME 7/5/65	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

1. ERIC NUMBER	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW
ED000889	84.50		

4. AUTHOR(S): Gallagher, Anna Helen

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED: Admission and Graduation Policies of Graduate Schools of Nursing

6. PUBLICATION TITLE: N.A.

7. EDITOR(S): N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN: Northeast Louisiana State College, Monroe, Lousiana

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE: Northeast Louisiana State College

CITY, STATE

TELE. EXT.

INST/LOC CODE

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	Mar. 63	13

MICROFILM COPY AVAILABLE: YES [X] NO [ ]

COPYRIGHT GRANTED: YES [ ] NO [X]

COPYRIGHT RELEASE FILED: YES [ ] NO [ ]

TYPE OF REPORT: PROPOSAL [ ] IN-PROGRESS [ ] FINAL [X] FOLLOW-UP [ ]

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR: survey

16. INDEXING TERMS (6-12)

surveys Y-18A
professional edu. P-20
nursing education O-20
admissions R-07
graduate edu. S-04
required courses P-36

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

A study based on the report of the deans from 43 colleges and universities offering graduate programs in nursing which was undertaken to ascertain admission and graduation policies of graduate schools of nursing. Reviews admission and graduation requirements. A list of graduate schools of nursing is attached.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OR PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

ERIC Form 1

R-7-18 (Nursing) Case 12 8450

March 11, 1963

Anna Helen Gallagher, Ed. D.

Anna Helen Gallagher is Chairman of the Department of Nursing and Associate Professor of Nursing at Northeast Louisiana State College, Monroe, Louisiana. Graduate, Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Ed. D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; major, College Administrator. Offices held: Chairman, Louisiana College Conference, Nursing Section; First Vice-Chairman, Louisiana State Nurses' Association, Educational Administrators, Consultants, and Teachers section; member of the Executive Board, Western Regional Council for State Leagues for Nursing. Member, Pi Lambda Theta, American Association of University Women, National League for Nursing, American Nurses' Association. Biography will be included in the 3rd Edition of "Who's Who of American Women".

ED000889

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated do not necessarily represent official Office of Education position or policy.

ADMISSION AND GRADUATION POLICIES OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS OF NURSING

Anna Helen Gallagher

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to ascertain admission and graduation policies of Graduate Schools of Nursing.

Importance of the Study

The results of the study can be used as:

1. A guide to assist the Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing who is planning to revise admission and/or graduation policies of the respective school.
2. A guide to assist the Dean who is planning a new graduate program.
3. General information to all who are interested in graduate education; and to those who are interested in the preparation of nursing faculty and nursing administrators.

Methodology

A letter and return postal card was sent to the Executive Secretaries of State Boards of Nurse Examiners of all States except Alaska and Hawaii. The Executive Secretaries were asked the names of Graduate Schools of Nursing in their State, other than the programs listed in the June, 1962 issue of Nursing Outlook[1]. Responses were received from

---

[1] Baccalaureate and Masters Degree Programs in Nursing Accredited by the National League for Nursing, 1962-1963, Nursing Outlook 10:6, June, 1962, p. 410-411.

all forty-eight states and District of Columbia. Data from the National League for Nursing list and from the State Boards of Nurse Examiners indicated that there are forty-six Colleges and Universities which offer a Masters program in Nursing. A questionnaire was then sent to the Deans of the forty-six graduate schools in nursing.

General Information

Admission policies refer to the standards, criteria, or requirements which a College or University uses in selecting candidates for its Graduate School of Nursing. Graduation policies refer to the requirements which a candidate must satisfy in order to receive the Masters degree from a Graduate School of Nursing.

The term "requirements for admission" in this study covered prerequisites such as legal requirements, professional membership, undergraduate education, qualifying examinations, and nursing experience necessary for enrollment as a candidate in a given program in a Graduate School of Nursing.

"Graduation requirements" in this study included the following: course requirements (number of semester hours needed to satisfy course requirements of the respective school), average length of program, field work or study, number of semester hours of field work, thesis, and field project requirements.

The survey shows that there are at present forty-six graduate schools in continental U.S.A. Of the forty-six questionnaires sent out, forty-three were completed and returned (93.48% returns).

Of the forty-six Graduate Schools of Nursing, thirty-three are accredited by the National League for Nursing; thirteen, are not listed

by the National League for Nursing (of the latter group, one school started its program in the Fall, 1962).

Twenty-eight states do not have a school offering a Nationally accredited Masters Program in Nursing; of these twenty-eight states, twenty-one have no Masters Program in Nursing; seven states have programs, but these are not Nationally accredited. In three states, both Nationally accredited and non-accredited programs exist (Michigan, New York, and North Carolina. New Program in Michigan). Eighteen states have only Nationally accredited programs. One state (New York) has ten Masters programs (six, Nationally accredited; four not accredited). Two states (California and Ohio) have three Nationally accredited programs in each state; three states (Massachusetts, Missouri, and Pennsylvania) each have two Nationally accredited programs; fifteen states have one accredited program in each respective state; seven states have one graduate program (not Nationally accredited) in each state (fig. 1).

The admission and graduation policies discussed below are based on questionnaire returns from forty-three of the forty-six Graduate Schools of Nursing. Thirty schools which completed the questionnaire are accredited by the National League for Nursing; thirteen, are not so accredited.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Legal Requirements

It is a general practice to require professional nurse registration of candidates in graduate nursing programs. Forty of the forty-three schools which completed the questionnaire require that the candidate be registered in a state (foreign country for foreign students); four states

specified registration in the state where the candidate is studying if the candidate is teaching or employed in the respective state.

Professional Membership

The majority of Graduate Schools do not make membership in professional organizations a requirement for admission. Eight schools stated that they encourage candidates to become members of professional organizations; only four schools require membership in professional organizations.

Undergraduate Preparation

Most schools (thirty-one) accept candidates who graduated from baccalaureate nursing programs which are the equivalent of the undergraduate program of the school offering the graduate program. Some schools have a policy of admitting to candidacy students from Nationally accredited baccalaureate nursing programs (twelve schools). Ten schools accept candidates from state approved baccalaureate nursing programs. Several schools accept candidates from Nationally accredited programs and state approved or state approved and/or equivalent program. In general, the practice of Graduate Schools of Nursing is to accept candidates from schools which offer a program that is the equivalent of the undergraduate baccalaureate nursing program offered by the respective University or College where the candidate makes application for graduate study.

Qualifying Examination

The majority of schools (thirty-one) use qualifying examinations. The National League for Nursing Graduate Nurse Examination is used more frequently than any other qualifying examination (twenty schools); of the other tests, the Graduate Record Examination was used by nine schools

and the Miller Analogies by eight schools. Some schools use more than one examination. Students in one school take a battery of tests which includes the National League for Nursing Graduate Nurse Examination, Terman Concept Mastery, Minnesota Multi-Phasic Personality Inventory, Strong's Men's Vocational Interests, and Comprehensive Reading Tests. One school uses the American College Tests in addition to the National League for Nursing Graduate Nurse Examination; and one school uses the School and College Achievement Test, but indicated that they may change to the Miller Analogies Test.

Most schools (twenty-two) which use Qualifying Examinations report that test results are used for counseling and guidance purposes. Several schools (six) stated that test results are not the sole criterion for selection; that undergraduate school class grades, the program from which the candidate came, total student's qualifications, and other criteria are also taken into consideration. The level of achievement required on the National League for Nursing Graduate Nurse Examination for admission to graduate schools varies from the fiftieth percentile or above (eight schools) down to the tenth percentile (one school); two schools checked the thirtieth percentile. Some schools (seven) do not set a cut-off point, but as stated above, take other criteria into consideration and use test results for guidance purposes.

Two schools are currently studying the results of qualifying examinations. Only two schools reported scores for tests other than the National League for Nursing Graduate Nurse Examination. One school reported a score of 450 as the level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination; and one gave the score of thirty-five as the level

of achievement on the Miller Analogies Test.

Experience Requirements

The general practice tends toward not requiring professional nursing experience as a prerequisite for matriculation. Thirty programs do not require professional nursing experience prior to matriculation; fifteen programs require professional nursing experience. Three schools which offer more than one Masters program indicated that some programs have a prerequisite of professional nursing experience, while other programs do not. For example, one school requires experience for administration majors only; another school for public health nursing majors only; and another school requires experience for public health and supervision majors only.

The number of years' experience required prior to candidacy varies, and many schools checked more than one item, indicating that the amount of experience required differs with the candidate's major. Different schools, too, have different requirements on professional experience prerequisites. Eleven programs require at least one year's experience; nine, two years; four, three years; four, require more than three years. One year's experience seems to be the more common practice in programs which require experience (eleven), although two years is almost as common, with nine programs making this requirement.

Schools seem to require more experience from those majoring in Administration or Public Health Nursing than from those majoring in teaching. Schools prefer that the candidate have experience in general professional nursing (ten), or in the field in which the candidate seeks advanced preparation (ten).

Graduate schools report that they require professional experience prior to matriculation for the reasons stated below (in descending order): 1) experience gives the candidate an opportunity to develop professional qualities and leadership potential in the area of specialization (ten); 2) experience gives the candidate basic experience for his selected field of study (ten); and 3) experience makes courses more meaningful to the candidate (nine).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS DEGREE IN NURSING

Course Work Requirements

Course work needed to satisfy graduation requirements ranged from twenty to sixty semester hours. Each school sets its own standards for graduation; thus the semester hours of course work vary from school to school, as well as with the major area of study, and in several programs whether extra courses are chosen by the candidate in preference to writing a thesis. Since many schools offer a Masters degree in more than one area of study, schools tend to list course requirements for each major area of study.

The study shows that the majority of programs require between thirty and thirty-six semester hours of course work to satisfy graduation requirements; and that the course requirements of nearly all programs lie between thirty and forty-two semester hours. The largest single group falls in the area of thirty semester hours (eight); the next largest group, thirty-six semester hours (five). When a school gave a range of hours for a program, this was represented on the diagram by a horizontal line (fig. 2).

Average Length of Program

The average length of the program varies with the school as well as with the major area of study, and with the candidate's choice of writing a thesis or electing extra course work. Too, some schools reported different time periods required for the various programs. Length of the program ranges from one calendar year to four semesters and one month. Most programs can be completed in from one calendar year (twenty-one) to three semesters (sixteen). One calendar year seems to be the most popular length of time required to complete the Masters program in Nursing.

Field Work Experience

Field work experience is generally required by Graduate schools of Nursing. Forty-two of the forty-three schools require field work experience and/or laboratory study.

The number of semester hours of field work required varies with the major area of study, the student's requirements, and with the school. Most schools reported semester hours; a few, however, reported clock hour requirements or weeks of clinical practice, or practice teaching needed to satisfy graduation requirements. Semester hours of field study ranged from two to twenty-five; and from eight clock hours per week for one or two semesters to seven hundred clock hours. Six semester hours was reported most frequently (ten programs). (Fig. 3).

Thesis or Project Requirements

The general practice is to require a thesis or a project for graduation. Seventeen Schools require a thesis; fifteen, a project.

All schools except three require a thesis or a field project. Two schools require both a thesis and a field project. Three schools

accept either a thesis or a project; three schools accept a thesis or extra course work in lieu of a thesis (fig. 4).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Writer recommends that a study of Policies on Admission and Graduation of Graduate Schools of Nursing be conducted in five or ten years to determine trends in Admission and Graduation policies in Graduate Schools of Nursing, and for comparison purposes.

State	No. of Schools Accredited by NLN	No. of Schools with Programs Not Accredited by NLN	No Masters Program
Alabama	1		
Arizona			x
Arkansas			x
California	3		
Colorado	1		
Connecticut	1		
Delaware			x
District of Columbia	1		
Florida		1	
Georgia	1		
Idaho			x
Illinois		1	
Indiana	1		
Iowa		1	
Kansas			x
Kentucky			x
Louisiana			x
Maine			x
Maryland	1		
Massachusetts	2		
Michigan	1	1	
Minnesota	1		
Mississippi			x
Missouri	2		
Montana		1	
Nebraska		1	
Nevada			x
New Hampshire			x
New Jersey	1		
New Mexico			x
New York	6	4	
North Carolina	1	1	
North Dakota			x
Ohio	3		
Oklahoma			x
Oregon		1	
Pennsylvania	2		
Rhode Island			x
South Carolina			x
South Dakota			x
Tennessee	1		
Texas	1		
Utah	1		
Vermont			x
Virginia			x
Washington	1		
West Virginia			x
Wisconsin		1	
Wyoming			x

fig. 1. Summary of Graduate Programs in Nursing in each State.

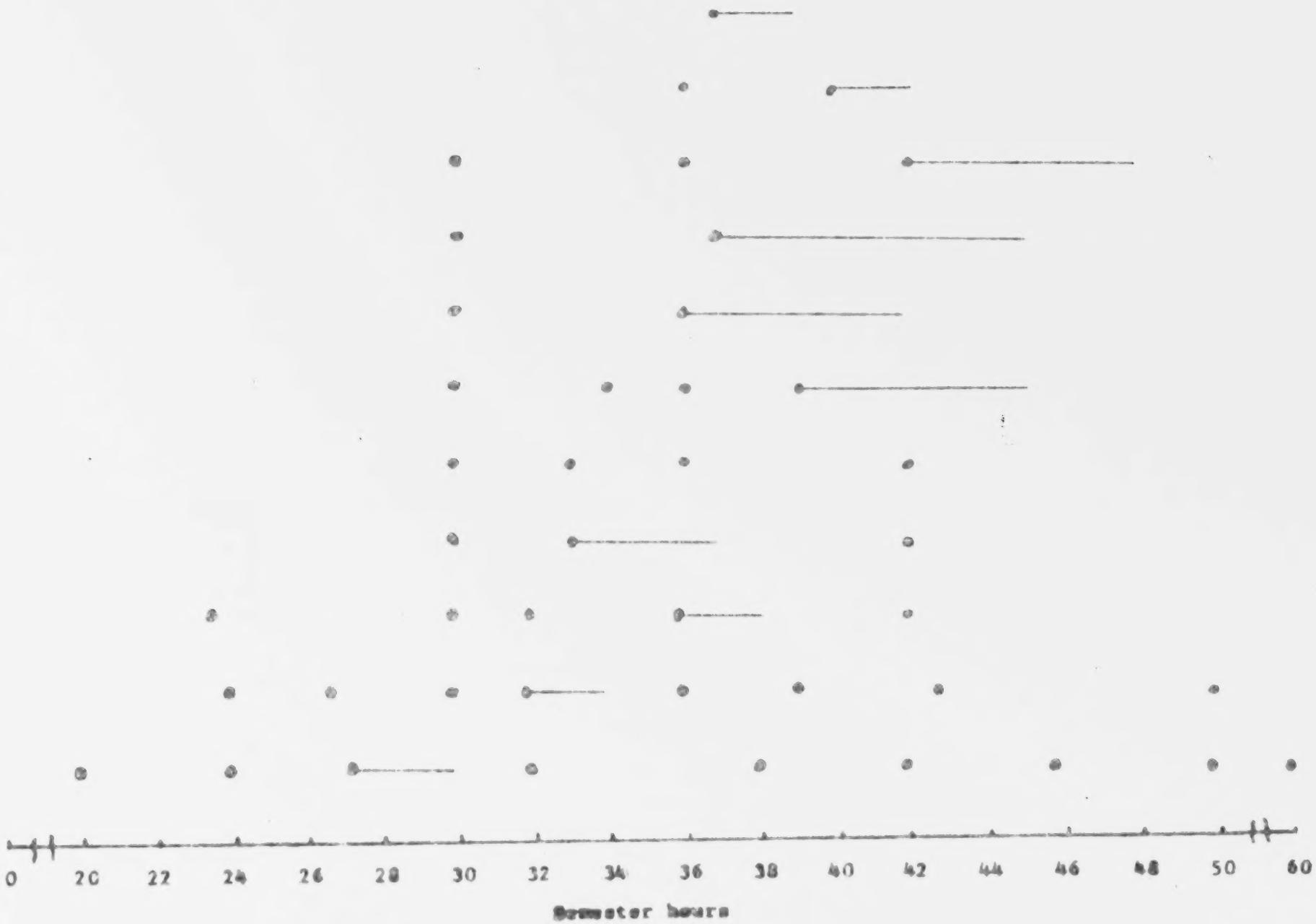

fig. 2. Diagram representing semester hours of course work to satisfy graduation requirements. Each dot represents one program.

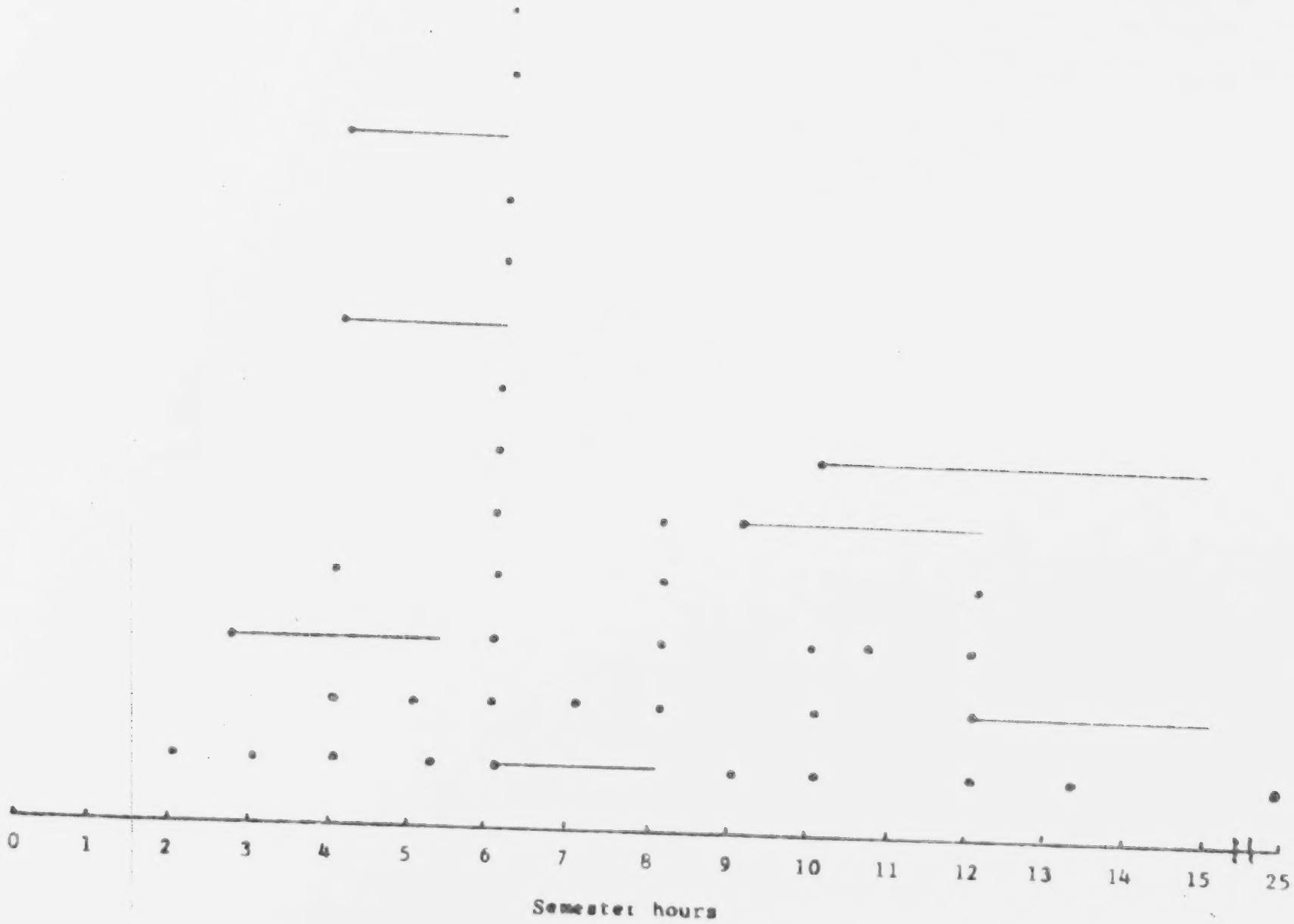

fig. 3. Semester hours of field work required. Each dot represents one program. Horizontal lines represent a range of semester hours required by a particular school or program

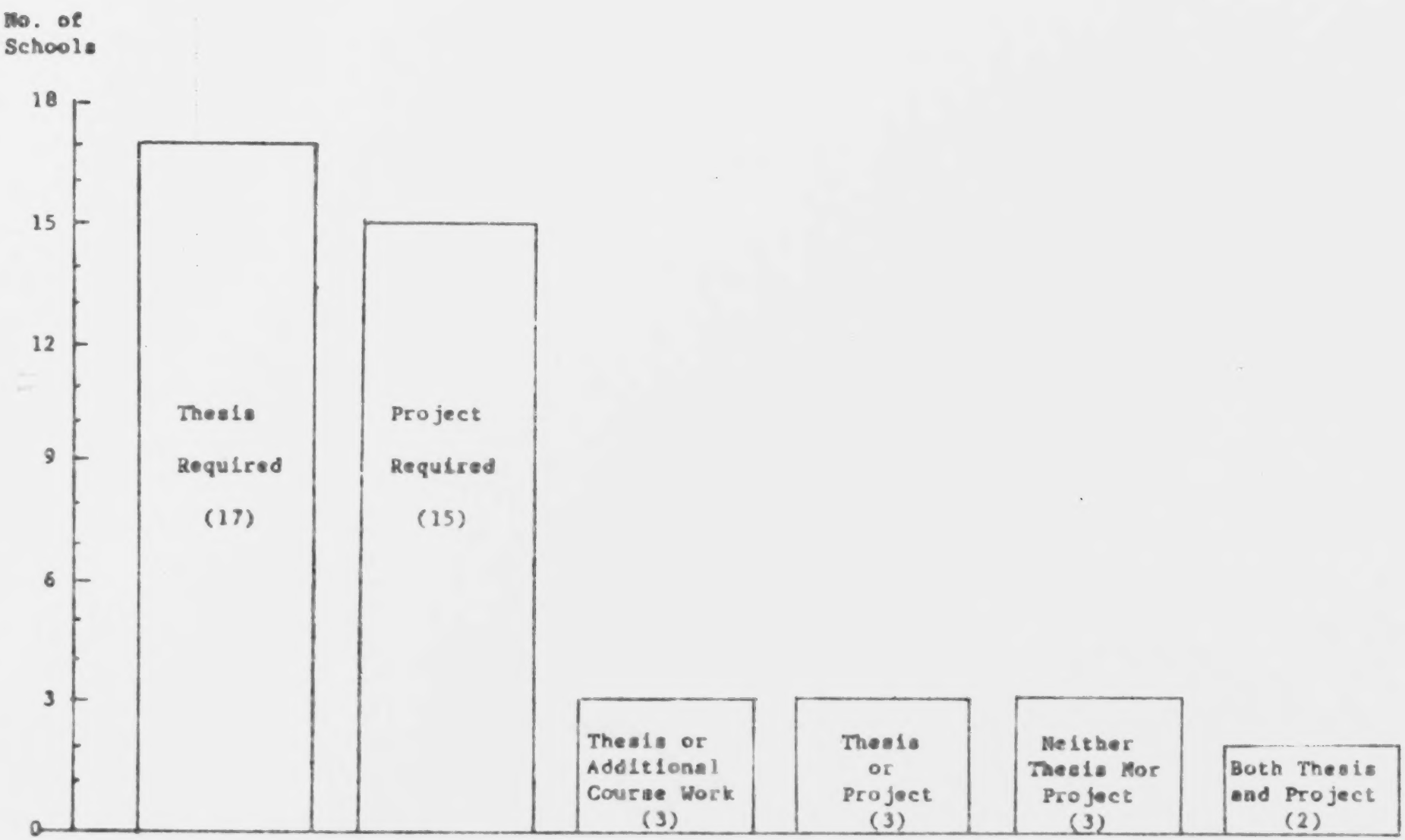

fig. 4. Thesis and project requirements.

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA STATE COLLEGE
MONROE, LOUISIANA

DIVISION OF
PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE
Department of Nursing

June 9, 1963

Dr. Harold A. Haswell, Director
Higher Education Programs Branch
Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare
Office of Education
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Haswell:

Thank you for duplicating the copy of the manuscript entitled "Admission and Graduation Policies of Graduate Schools of Nursing", and for returning the original to me. I also appreciate the copy of the Reporter.

You have my permission to place a copy of the manuscript in the research files of the Clearinghouse and to include an annotated listing of the report in the next issue of the Reporter.

I have sent a copy of the manuscript to the "Educational Record".

Sincerely,

Anna Helen Gallagher

Anna Helen Gallagher

Copy in file of publications awaiting annotating
AR 6-20-63

From: Alice Richards
June 3, 1963

Suggested paragraph for Dr. Haswell's letter of reply.

We would like to have an opportunity to place a copy of your manuscript in the research files of our Clearinghouse of Studies on Higher Education and to include an annotated listing of your report in the next issue of the Reporter. In case you are not acquainted with this publication, a copy of the latest issue is enclosed. Since you may not have an extra copy of your manuscript available for deposit with the Clearinghouse, I have taken the liberty of having a copy duplicated for our retention, subject to your wishes. The copy will not be turned over to the Clearinghouse without your permission.

Dr. Anna Helen Gallagher
Dept. of Nursing
Northeast Louisiana State College
Monroe, La.

June 5, 1963

Dr. Anna Helen Gallagher
Chairman, Department of Nursing
Northeast Louisiana State College
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Dr. Gallagher:

Thank you for your manuscript entitled "Admission and Graduation Policies of Graduate Schools of Nursing," which you submitted with your letter of April 22.

Although we cannot incorporate your manuscript in its entirety into an Office of Education publication, we would like to have an opportunity to place a copy of it in the research files of our Clearinghouse of Studies on Higher Education and to include an annotated listing of your report in the next issue of the Reporter. In case you are not acquainted with this publication, a copy of the latest issue is enclosed. Since you may not have an extra copy of your manuscript available for deposit with the Clearinghouse, I have taken the liberty of having a copy duplicated for our retention, subject to your wishes. The copy will not be turned over to the Clearinghouse without your permission.

Members of our staff have made the further suggestion that, in case you have not already done so, your manuscript should be submitted to one of the professional journals dealing with the problems of the nursing profession.

Sincerely yours,

Harold A. Haswell
Director
Higher Education Programs Branch

Enclosures 2
HAHaswell:ah
cc: HEPB File
Chron File

ALR

From: Alice Richards
June 3, 1963

Suggested paragraph for Dr. Haswell's letter of reply.

We would like to have an opportunity to place a copy of your manuscript in the research files of our Clearinghouse of Studies on Higher Education and to include an annotated listing of your report in the next issue of the Reporter. In case you are not acquainted with this publication, a copy of the latest issue is enclosed. Since you may not have an extra copy of your manuscript available for deposit with the Clearinghouse, I have taken the liberty of having a copy duplicated for our retention, subject to your wishes. The copy will not be turned over to the Clearinghouse without your permission.

5/28/63

Mrs. Leone, Chief Nurse Officer in PHS, called Dr. Haswell to teli him of her reactions to the research paper by Anna Mallagh from Louisiana.

She feels that the paper is not worthy of consideration for publication other than in a professional nursing journal and may even be turned down there. She thinks that some of the material in the paper might be of use in a revision of Dr. Blauch's Education for the Professions" which in her opinion is sorely needed. She referred to the Clearinghouse as a possible repository for the paper.

Dr. Haswell stated that he too thought it might be appropriate for the Clearinghouse and the Reporter, and would see that it is furnished to them. It was agreed that the information contained in this paper might be of value to certain people.

Mrs. Leone sadd that she would return the paper to us for further handling.

W. M.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~Dr K A Brunner~~
~~Clearinghouse~~ WK L
Dr Haswell

TO : Dr. Harold A. Haswell
Director, HEPB

DATE: April 24, 1963

FROM : John L. Chase J.L.C.
Chief, Arts & Sciences Section

SUBJECT: Attached MS on admission and graduation requirements in Graduate Schools of Nursing

It seems to me that this report is not very substantial, and is of such limited interest that it ought to be submitted to one of the professional journals dealing with problems of the nursing profession. However, I have heard some mention of our undertaking a revision of L. Blauch's Education for the Professions, and possibly this might be useful to the person preparing the revision.

This proposal hardly comes within the jurisdiction of the Arts & Sciences Section, and really ought to be referred to someone with more specialized knowledge of the nursing field.

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA STATE COLLEGE
MONROE, LOUISIANA

DIVISION OF
PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE
Department of Nursing

April 22, 1963

Department of Health, Education
and Welfare
Division of Higher Education
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I submit for publication the enclosed manuscript of a study concerning policies on admission and graduation in Graduate Schools of Nursing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Helen Gallagher

Anna Helen Gallagher, Ed. D.
Chairman, Department of Nursing